

presenting a graphical map depicting a large initial geographic area, said graphical map being divided into smaller selectable geographic regions;

narrowing said initial geographic area by recursively selecting and successively displaying said smaller geographic regions using a graphical tree structure;

displaying a desired geographic region, said desired geographic region including individual highlighted points of interest corresponding to available housing;

recursively selecting highlighted points of interest and retrieving from the database information related to each selected point of interest; and

compiling an interest list of interesting properties, including a list of interesting properties and user information for contacting a person interested in said interesting properties contained in said list.

**2.** A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

adding new listing information into said database by:

presenting a graphical map depicting a large initial geographic area, said graphical map being divided into smaller selectable geographic regions;

narrowing said initial geographic area by recursively selecting and displaying said smaller geographic regions;

displaying an enlarged view of a desired geographic region;

inserting a new point of interest into said desired geographic region by selecting a location on said displayed desired geographic region; and

entering information into a database record corresponding to said new point of interest.

**3.** A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

editing existing database records by:

presenting a graphical map depicting a large initial geographic area, said graphical map being divided into smaller selectable geographic regions;

narrowing said initial geographic area by recursively selecting and displaying said smaller geographic regions;

displaying an enlarged view of a desired geographic region, said desired geographic region including highlighted points of interest corresponding to database records;

selecting a highlighted point of interest corresponding to a database record to be edited;

displaying and editing said database record corresponding to said highlighted point of interest.

**4.** A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

deleting existing database records by:

presenting a graphical map depicting a large initial geographic area, said graphical map being divided into smaller selectable geographic regions;

narrowing said initial geographic area by recursively selecting and displaying said smaller geographic regions;

displaying an enlarged view of a desired geographic region, said desired geographic region including highlighted points of interest corresponding to database records;

selecting a highlighted point of interest corresponding to a database record to be edited;

deleting said database record corresponding to said highlighted point of interest.

**5.** A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

displaying a digitized picture of a property corresponding to a selected point of interest, each time said point of interest is selected.

**6.** A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

displaying a full motion video clip of a property corresponding to a selected point of interest, each time said point of interest is selected.

**7.** A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of notifying further comprises the steps of:

compiling and sending an e-mail message to said property manager containing said user information and a list of all properties belonging to said property manager in said interest list.

**8.** A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

entering a search criteria prior to said step of displaying said enlarged view; and

displaying said enlarged view of said desired geographic region, including only points of interest which meet said search criteria.

**9.** A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of notifying a property manager of an interest in properties belonging to said property manager listed on said interest list.

**10.** A geographic-specific information search system, comprising:

a database for storing a plurality of database records of real estate listing data each record pertaining to a property and the location of that property as defined by coordinates on a predetermined map;

a set of map tables for storing information that identifies the image of a plurality of maps representing different predefined geographic boundaries and having predefined features located within said boundaries, said map tables further configured for storing coordinate data associated with said predefined features;

an input/output interface for communicating with a computer network and for communicating with a user interface for displaying maps and listing data and for receiving queries from a user, said queries including input coordinates entered by the user using a pointing device;

a query handler coupled to said input/output interface for using said set of map tables to decode said input coordinates and to access said set of map tables to retrieve information identifying one of said predetermined maps based on said input coordinates, said query handler further configured for receiving a user-entered query through said input/output interface and accessing said database to retrieve database records that satisfy the user-entered query;

a map compiler responsive to said query handler for constructing a query-specific map by placing query-specific properties within the boundary of said one of said predetermined maps, said query-specific properties corresponding to said retrieved database records and the placement of each query-specific property within said boundary being defined by coordinates according to said retrieved database records;

a table builder responsive to said query handler for building a query-specific map table for storing information that identifies the image of said query-specific